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Agenda item 7 (e)
Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics

Lesotho:* draft resolution

Information and communication technologies task force

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration on development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy, adopted on 7 July 2000 by the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2000,

Noting that several international initiatives are being taken to bridge the global digital divide and create digital opportunities, including the establishment of a digital opportunity task force (dot force) by the G-8 Summit in Okinawa,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the present resolution at a resumed substantive session of the Council for approval.

Annex

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics

1. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics recommends that an information and communication technologies task force be created with the objectives of providing overall leadership to the United Nations role in helping to formulate strategies for the development of information and communication technologies and putting those technologies at the service of development and, on the basis of consultations with all stakeholders and Member States, forging a strategic partnership between the United Nations system, private industry and

* In its capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics.

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financing trusts and foundations, donors, programme countries and other relevant stakeholders.

2. The Working Group recommends that the Secretary-General undertake consultations with all stakeholders and Member States regarding the composition, governance structure, mandate, terms of reference, secretarial support and project implementation arrangements of the task force and the trust fund, taking into account, *inter alia*, the following elements:

Mandate

The task force would:

- Serve as a mechanism to facilitate and promote collaborative initiatives, involving, as appropriate, public and private sectors, foundations and trusts, for the mobilization of resources and for promoting and funding ICT programmes and projects;
- Identify and mobilize new resources, public and private;
- Promote effective utilization of existing resources for ICT for development;
- Promote collaborative initiatives, at the request of and in consultation with programme countries, for ICT programmes and projects, including at the regional, subregional and national levels, taking into account the provisions of paragraphs 14 to 17 of the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council;
- Facilitate the pooling of relevant experience of both developed and developing countries and lessons learned, in introducing and promoting ICT, in the development of local content and using ICT for preserving and disseminating traditional knowledge, with a view to promoting North-South and South-South programme initiatives;
- Develop networking arrangements with other mechanisms and institutions, both public and private, engaged in ICT development activities with a view to promoting coherence and synergy and identifying joint programme initiatives;
- Administer the trust fund to be established and funded by all interested partners on the basis of voluntary contributions.

Composition, oversight and secretariat

- The composition of the task force should be balanced, in terms of partner representation (United Nations system, public and private sectors, foundations, trusts, developed and developing countries, and countries with economies in transition), taking into account the need for geographical balance;
- The task force could be supported by a small secretariat on the basis of secondment from participants and funding by overhead support costs of the programmes and projects financed from the trust fund;
- The Secretary-General will submit an annual report on the activities of the task force to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration.

Modalities of operation

- The modalities of operation of the task force should be simple, efficient, transparent and accountable.